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BRANFORD TRAIL:

PINE ORCHARD

Branford, CT

The 28-mile Branford Trail is a unique trail that borders a majority of the town's perimeter. The white circle blazed trail passes through the shoreline, wetlands, many town parks, northerly woodlands, and many Branford Land Trust properties. The trail is separated into eight sections that begins and ends at a public road with space for parking. Every home in Branford is within 15-minutes walking time of a trail. The entire Branford trail is best walked in a counter-clockwise directions.

This 2.5 mile section of the Branford Trail features the Pine Orchard area of Branford. This area was permanently settled in the 1800s. Pine Orchard comprises several cottages colonies, some handsome estates, summer hotels, and the eighteen-hole course of the Pine Orchard Golf Club.

The trail passes behind the fire station at Pine Orchard Road and travels through Young Park Pond. At Young Park, there are several small loop trails that take you through the park and along the Young Park Pond. Young Park also has a self-guided tree identification through their trail system. At Blackstone Avenue, the trail climbs a ridge to the left with good views and then descends to travel north along the base of a cliff. The trail crosses the Tilton freight train line that carries trap rock stone from the quarry in North Branford to the Tilton Dock where barges are loaded with the stone. At the Tilton line, the trail then follows the old trolley line to Stony Creek. Side paths can be taken to Snake Island or a loop through the Vedder Property (Branford Land Trust) which includes a Vedder Monument.

This section of the Branford Trail also includes the Branford Trolley Trail. This trail is a 480 foot long by 4 foot wide footbridge along the path of an abandoned historic trolley track. The bridge connects to a popular existing nature walk. Visitors to the Branford trolley track footbridge can expect to see numerous shorebirds in the tidal estuary, feeding in the marsh or wading in the shallow waters of the tidal creek. This marsh area also provides habitat for many fish, mammals and invertebrates.

Photo by CT Department of Environmental Protection



Directions and Parking:

Parking for this portion of the Branford Trail can be found along the access road to the dog kennel or the Pine Orchard Fire Station. This area is best reached via I-95 to Montowese Street (Route 146) to Pine Orchard Road.

Permitted Activities:

This trail follows public and private roads. When adjacent to private property please respect resident's privacy. Dogs are permitted on leash. Please bag and pick up all dog waste.

For more information about this location, contact:

Town of Branford
Parks and Open Space Authority
(203) 488-8394, ext. 120

This project made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

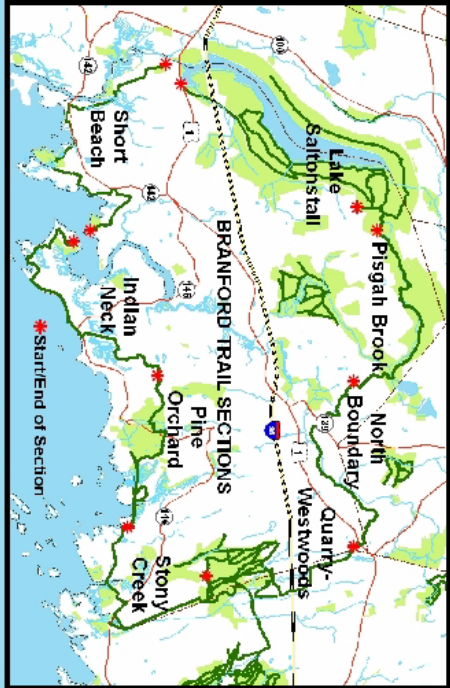
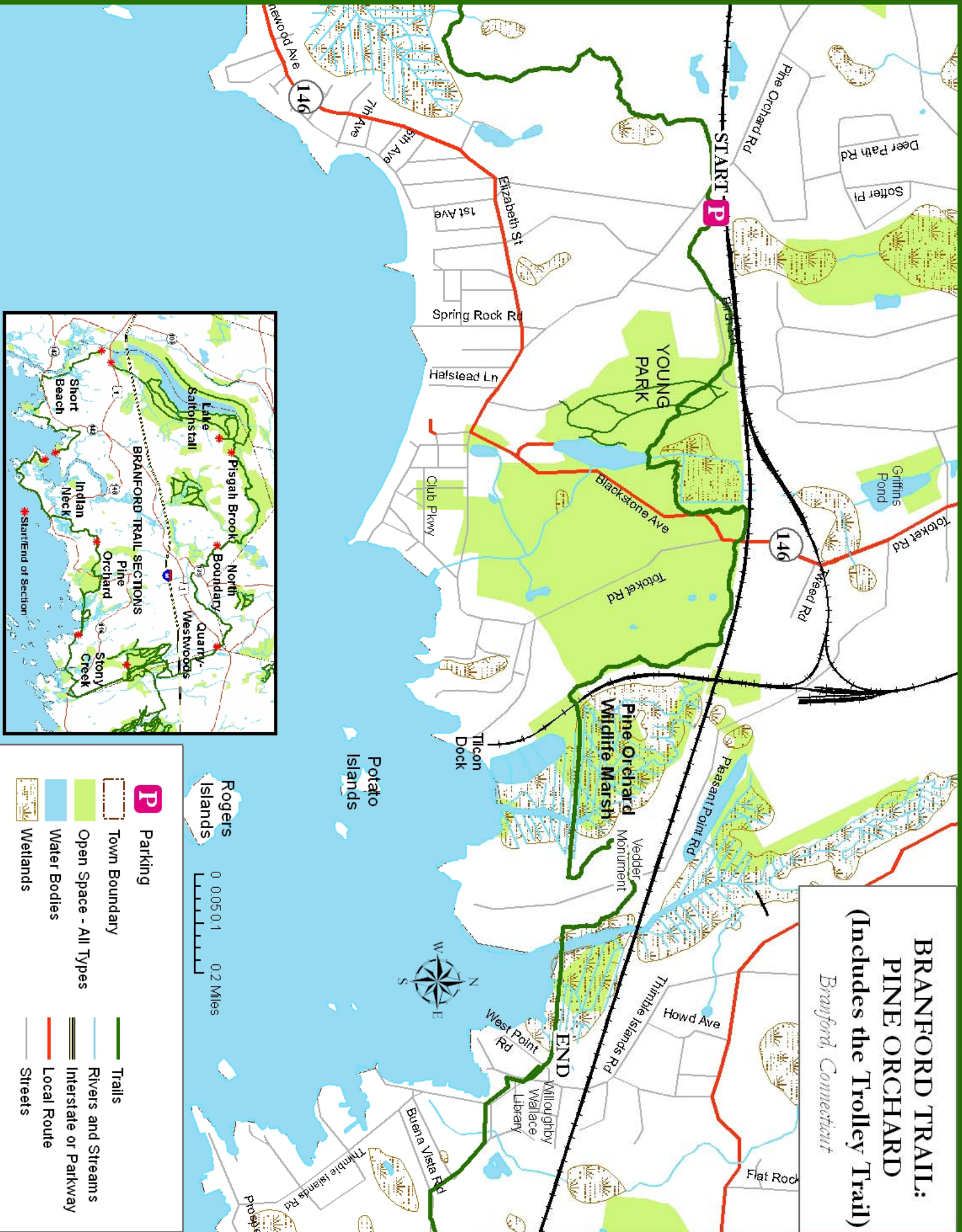
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BRANFORD TRAIL: PINE ORCHARD (Includes the Trolley Trail)

Branford, Connecticut



- P** Parking
- Town Boundary
- Open Space - All Types
- Water Bodies
- Wetlands
- Trails
- Rivers and Streams
- Interstate or Parkway
- Local Route
- Streets